

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 EURE-00 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 SY-02 USIA-01 /040 W

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P 301522Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 694

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7471

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC (SHELLEY, LOUISE), UR

SUBJECT: IREX EXCHANGE LOUISE SHELLEY

REF: MOSCOW 7397

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING OTHER BUSINESS DURING MAY 30
CALL ON DEPUTY CHIEF O MFA USA DIVISION FEDOSEYEV, POLITICAL
COUNSELOR RAISED LOUISE SHELLEY CASE (REFTEL), EMPHASIZING
THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND NOT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
FROM THE DEPARTMENT. HE REVIEWED FACTS OF CASE AS WE KNOW
THEM AND EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT PURPOSE OF THIS SOVIET
ACTION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT MISS SHELLEY, AS
SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE, IS LEAVING THE USSR ON MAY 30.
POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT ACCUSATION MADE AGAINST MISS
SHELLEY WAS THAT SHE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH UNSPECIFIED
SOVIET CITIZENS. WE COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH ACCUSATIONS EVEN
IF TRUE (AND IN THIS CASE MISS SHELLEY DENIES THE ACCUSATION),
SINCE SOVIET EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE
FREE TO SEE WHOMEVER THEY WISH AND WE PLACE NO RESTRICTUION
ON THEM IN THIS REGARD WHATSOEVER. IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED,
THIS ACTION IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF OVERALL RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND IS AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE
EXCHANGE AGREEMENT ITSELF. POLITICAL COUNSELOR REITEATED
THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND SAID THAT HE WAS
ONLY RAISING THIS MATTER IN VIEW OF MISS SHELLEY'S
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IMMINENT DEPARTURE LATER THIS AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT

IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS WHICH THIS MATTER
COULD HAVE FOR THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, HE WANTED TO MAKE
SURE THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF OVERALL
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE AWARE OF IT.

2. FEDOSEYEV REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TIED UP WITH THE
VISIT TO THE USSR OF THE AMERICAN GUBERNATORIAL DELEGATION
AND HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING OF THIS MATTER. HE SAID HE
WOULD LOOK INTO IT IMMEDIATELY AND BE IN TOUCH WITH US.

3. COMMENT: THIS MATTER IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT
MISS SHELLEY IS ENGAGED TO EMBASSY OFFICER DONALD GRAVES
AND IS PLANNING TO RETURN WITH HIM TO MOSCOW AFTER THEIR
MARRIAGE IN THE U.S. THIS SUMMER. DURING THE CONVERSATION
WITH CULTURAL ATTACHE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, SOVIETS
VERY CAREFULLY SEEMED TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF HER
RETURNING TO MOSCOW OTHER THAN UNDER PREX SPONSORSHIP.
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE, WE DO NOT PLAN TO
RAISE THIS ASPECT WITH THE SOVIETS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW07471
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750189-1121
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975055/aaaaaemf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 7397
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IREX EXCHANGE LOUISE SHELLEY
TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, UR, (SHELLEY, LOUISE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006